GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1545
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMME
PRABHA RAU

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of State Health Secretaries was held recently to review the Family Welfare Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken in the conference to intensify the family planning programme;

(d) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to educate the people to adopt family planning programmes;

(e) whether any special assistance proposed to be given to the State Governments to carry on this programme more effective; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(b): Yes. A conference of State Secretaries in charge of Family Welfare was convened on 22nd and 23rd May, 2002 to review the family welfare programme. Issues relating to the implementation of the National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS), Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act - 1994, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, compensation for sterilization etc. were discussed during the conference.

(c): All participants were requested for increasing the outreach of services for contraception including terminal and spacing methods and Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Care so as to achieve reduction in fertility, maternal and infant mortality.

(d): The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component of the National Family Welfare Programme is basically for generating demand for the range of family welfare and reproductive health care service. Accordingly, the IEC activities, particularly in poor performing districts, focus on spreading awareness through a judicious media-mix based on local specific media forms and need based inter-personal communication schemes; grass-root level communication for different audience segments unreached by conventional mass media channels; integration with the Zila Saksharata Samities (District Literacy Committee, in-charge of the literacy campaign programme) for developing area specific approaches etc.

(e)&(f): National Family Welfare Programme continues to be a centrally sponsored programme.Assistance given to States has nearly doubled over the last five years from Rs.2489 crores in 1998-99 to Rs.4930 crores in 2002-03, for maintenance of family welfare infrastructural units, supply of drugs, contraceptives and extending maternal and child health care services. In order to give focused attention to more populous but weakly performing states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal and Jharkhand, an Empowered Action Group has been set up.